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June 25, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Thomas L. Garthwaite", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT #2**

On April 27, 2004, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, directing the Directors of Health Services and Public Health, to implement the Department's planned West Niles Virus (WNV) awareness and surveillance program and to provide monthly updates. This is our second update.

NATIONAL AND CALIFORNIA STATISTICS

As of June 16, 2004, 14 cases of WNV have been reported nationally from five states with no deaths in 2004. The first human cases of West Nile fever in California were recently identified in residents of San Bernardino County.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WNV SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES—2004

To date, one human case of WNV fever has been identified in Los Angeles. The case was reported on June 24, 2004. The individual resides in the eastern area of the County, was not hospitalized and is recovering at home. As of June 25, 2004, 207 WNV-positive dead birds have been identified in Los Angeles County. This is over 40 percent of the number of birds confirmed for the entire state (492 birds). The majority of the birds obtained in our county have been recovered from eastern cities (e.g., Arcadia, West Covina, El Monte). Moreover, since the confirmation of WNV is now established in many areas of the county, dead bird collection by the Health Department has been discontinued in 63 ZIP code areas (see attached). However, phoned reports of dead birds will continue to be received since these are a valuable component of WNV surveillance—they provide an on-going indicator of presumed West Nile virus activity and help focus containment activities.

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To date, 21 mosquito pools have tested positive in Los Angeles County. More than one third of the positive mosquito pools in California (59 pools) were identified in our county.

Attached is the June 25, 2004 West Nile Virus Activity Summary, which is posed on our website, and contains additional information.

The May 2004 issue of our publication, *The Public's Health*, features WNV as a front-page article. It is available on the web, has been distributed electronically, and will be mailed shortly to over 33,000 health professionals.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

TLG:cp
404:015

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY SUMMARY #5 (June 25, 2004)

First human case of West Nile fever identified in Los Angeles County!

The first Los Angeles County case of West Nile fever for this season has been identified. The case is an elderly man who resides in the eastern region of our county; he was not hospitalized and has since recovered. With this case, the current state total of human cases is now 10; the majority of these cases are residents of San Bernardino County. In addition, since numerous WNV-infected dead birds already have been recovered, especially in eastern cities of Los Angeles County, West Nile virus is now considered enzootic in southern California. Dead bird collection by the Health Department will be discontinued in 63 ZIP code areas as confirmation of the virus is now well established for those locations. However, phone reports of dead birds are still important and will continue to be received since this provides valuable information for WNV surveillance.

Important changes in the testing and reporting of human cases are described at:
www.lapublichealth.org/acd/VectorWestNile.htm

POSITIVE WNV TESTS, YEAR-TO-DATE, 2004*

	Human Cases	Equine Cases	Environmental Surveillance		
			Dead Birds	Sentinel Chicken Flocks	Mosquito Pools
Los Angeles County	1	0	207**	2	21
California	10	0	492	7	59

* As of 6/25/04—data are provisional and subject to change.

** As noted below, bird collection has been discontinued in many Los Angeles areas; as such, this frequency underestimates the number of WNV-infected dead birds occurring in our county.

CESSATION OF DEAD BIRD COLLECTION:

In many Los Angeles areas, dead bird collection by the Health Department has been discontinued since confirmation of the virus has been already well documented in those locations. In some special circumstances, local Vector Control may still decide to collect and test dead birds. Phoned reports of dead birds are still very important and will continue to be received since these reports they provide an on-going indicator of presumed West Nile virus activity and help focus containment activities. The termination of dead bird collection by the Health Department is only for the following 63 ZIP code areas listed below.

ZIP code areas where dead bird collection has been discontinued. (6-25-04)

91801	Alhambra	90242	Downey	90640	Montebello	91108	San Marino
91803	Alhambra	91010	Duarte	91754	Monterey Park	90670	Santa Fe Springs
91001	Altadena	91731	El Monte	91343	North Hills	91024	Sierra Madre
91006	Arcadia	91732	El Monte	91324	Northridge	91030	South Pasadena
91007	Arcadia	90249	Gardena	91325	Northridge	91780	Temple City
90701	Artesia	91740	Glendora	90650	Norwalk	91401	Van Nuys
91702	Azusa	91741	Glendora	91402	Panorama City	91722	West Covina
91706	Baldwin Park	91745	Hacienda Heights	91107	Pasadena	91790	West Covina
90201	Bell Gardens	90710	Harbor City	91108	Pasadena	91791	West Covina
90703	Cerritos	90716	Hawaiian Gardens	91766	Pomona	90069	West Hollywood
91745	City of Industry	91706	Irwindale	91767	Pomona	90602	Whittier
91711	Claremont	90712	Lakewood	91335	Reseda	90603	Whittier
91722	Covina	90638	La Mirada	91770	Rosemead	90604	Whittier
91724	Covina	91744	La Puente	91748	Rowland Heights	90605	Whittier
90240	Downey	90808	Long Beach	91775	San Gabriel	90606	Whittier
90241	Downey	91016	Monrovia	91776	San Gabriel		

Confirmation of WNV also has been well established in three additional areas (90660—Pico Rivera, 91733—South El Monte, 90670—Whittier). However, dead bird collection will continue in these three areas in collaboration with statewide surveillance and research.

Often, the first sign that WNV is prevalent in an area is a die-off of wild birds from the corvid family—especially crows. Statewide, nearly half of the WNV-infected dead birds have been recovered from Los Angeles County, and most of those from eastern cities. In addition, since mosquitoes are vectors for disease transmission, mosquito pools are also tested for the presence of WNV. To date, 21 WNV-positive pools have been identified. And similar to the dead bird surveillance, most of those have been from the eastern areas of our county.

